

StreetSafety

News

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Solar Safety Systems Help Alleviate Growing Pains

Increased suburban development made roads dangerous for pedestrians in Casa Grande, AZ. When drivers started ignoring crossing guards at Evergreen Elementary School, city officials decided to take action.

Casa Grande, Arizona, has grown to become the largest city in western Pinal County. Along with new homes and schools have come heavier traffic and wider streets. These changes can negatively affect pedestrian safety. When drivers began ignoring signs and crossing guards at Evergreen Elementary, city officials boosted safety with a solar crosswalk system from Traffic Safety Corporation (TSC).

Casa Grande had previously installed a TSC system. To determine equipment for that project, competing manufactur-

ers' systems underwent a field comparison. Signal Light Technician for the city, Alonzo Lopez, recalls, "After evaluating the Smart Stud and LightGuard systems, we went out to the TSC system in a town called Marana, just outside of Tucson. Once we saw the TSC system in operation, we immediately selected it as the best system. We thought, this is exactly what we want."

A similar system would be used to augment the mid-block crossing at Evergreen Elementary. The popular crosswalk spans five lanes and is used to access

Next Generation Crosswalk Controller

Available in both Solar and AC models. Featuring enhanced flash patterns, auto-sequencing of flash patterns, and onsite customization of operation.

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The TS600 fixtures feature a fully-flush profile, self-cleaning lens design, and uni and bi-directional configuration option.

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2708 47th Ave.
Sacramento, CA
95822-3806
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the school, the Trinity Southern Baptist Church and four Little League baseball diamonds nearby. To configure the system, the City worked with Joe Wise, TSC dealer for Arizona and President of Solar Traffic Controls.

“Drivers are slowing down and stopping. I’ve driven the road and the lights really get your attention.”

He proposed a robust, solar-powered solution to maximize pedestrian safety and minimize installation, operation and maintenance costs. The resulting configuration consisted of ten TS500 LED bi-directional in-pavement fixtures, dual 8” flashing beacons on warning signs at both approaches, Ped-X-Pad activation at each curb, and a solar-powered controller to run it all.

While sophisticated in design, the system was easy to install. Casa Grande used their Street Department, Signal Light Division, to perform most of the

work. Signal Light Technician Alonzo Lopez explains, “We set it up real nice, real quick, the installation was pretty simple. We didn’t have to tie into an Auxiliary Power Supply [APS] or run extra conduit to any services because



The crosswalk on the five lane road prior to installation.

the solar advanced warning signs are self-contained. They’re radio activated, so there’s much less to do. There’s no running trench or overhead lines to the signs.” These features dramatically reduce installation, operation and maintenance costs.

After a successful installation, Mr. Lopez immediately noticed the system’s effects on traffic, “Drivers are slowing down and stopping. I’ve driven the road and the lights really get your attention. It gets the public’s attention too. People are thrilled with the performance of the system and have begun helping the city identify other dangerous crossings in need of safety improvements.”

The City of Casa Grande understands the negative effects that growth can have on pedestrian safety. The city took a proactive approach to accident prevention at Evergreen Elementary by installing a TSC crosswalk warning

light system. The solar-powered system was cost-effective to install and virtually free to operate. The city has budgeted funds for two pedestrian safety systems per year for the next several years to help keep communities safer and more walkable for years to come.

System Summary

Site:	Evergreen Elementary School
Location:	1000 N Amarillo St, Casa Grande, AZ
Lanes:	5
Qty. Fixtures:	10
Type:	TS500 Bi-directional
Other:	Flashing Beacons and Signs
Activation:	Ped-X-Pad
Power:	Solar